

Ogden Letter.

Ogden, Utah, May 23, 1902.

Once upon a time there lived a man whose only claim to the consideration of future generations is that he said something. He said "the American people like to be humbugged," and he lived to prove it with his circus. His name was Barnum. Since his day his epigrammatic classic has been tried on the dog by every sort of fakir and bunco-steerer that the county could produce. Every state, every county, every city, has its Barnum. The particular fakir who thrives here is a splendid type of political bunco-steerer. He has made a life-long study of Barnum. His name is Glasmann.

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Unless an old dog has new tricks he ceases to be an interesting cur. Unless a fakir can keep the public mind attentive to a constantly changing programme there is danger of the fakir becoming a chestnut. Wherefore I say that fakir Bill has earned a place on the right hand of Barnum. Has he not played the people of Ogden for a lot of suckers and the editors down the State for a bunch of monkeys in his alleged retirement from the Standard? How the fakir-editor-manager winked the other eye as he read, and republished, the "farewell notices" from country contemporaries in which the fakir was held up as a model of honesty and integrity! But the fake—proceed.

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Bill said a California Bank had his Standard stock in soak and they refused to release the paper to him—so he had to retire. It was a pathetic story—raw in spots—but the people like to be humbugged and Bill knows what the people like. Of course the Standard did not change its policy—it still exhaled the Bill odor—when comes the announcement, through the Standard, that Bill had obtained his own consent to a morning paper with the Associated Press franchise, and lo!—the fakir-editor-Mayor is about to blossom (stinkweed) in the field of journalism. Herein is the fake; and, if the people propose to continue nursing a humbug, the fake will prosper.

There is about as much danger of Bill starting a morning paper in opposition to the Standard as there is that the hair of an honest man will grow in the palm of his hand. The whole thing is a big bluff—only the people of Ogden will not wake up till Bill gets away with it. It is well known that the Standard has to send its morals to the laundry occasionally in order to appear decent while paying expenses—and if two papers are to manage it—they will have to do with the candidates as the old darkey did with his famous rabbit trap—"catch 'em comin'—catch 'em goin'." Between the Standard and the Sun, the poor candidates can take their choice of a hold up in the evening or a roast in the morning.

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If Bill publishes another paper—that means an evening and morning edition from the same staff and off the same plant. His

purpose is first—a piece of money. He probably figures on selling out one paper to either the Kearns-Smoot syndicate or the Democrats. So he is taking time by the forelock to be in the field when the time is ripe to humbug the people comes round. He may have another purpose in view. If so his object is to undermine the prestige and business of the Standard so that the stockholders will be brought face to face with a paper that is losing money—the result is supposed to be that the buncoed stockholders will say, "Here Bill, take the stock—you are the only man who can make the paper pay—we won't stand for any assessments. By these means it is not improbable that even a fakir would justify his grand stand bluff and the people would acclaim him from the house tops. Verily, he is the greatest since Barnum.

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The Standard in an editorial (mailed from New York) on Wednesday gave Bill and his proposed paper another column ad. The pity of it all is that there are those who really believe that Bill is not the present manager of the Standard. That belief will be perpetuated for the reason that when on expose is made—the fakir-editor-Mayor will immediately kick up a big dust in some other quarter and the dear public will again do the everlasting humbug act. And don't fear about Bill's resources. He will keep the people staring into the grand stand even if he has to dress Fred Chambers up in cap and bells and placard his expressive back with the inscription "Manager of the Ogden Standard."

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The really pathetic feature of it all is that Fred stands for it.

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To Councilman Hendershot:—Permit me to say that the people look to you for putting Lester park into a seasonable and attractive condition. I won't say anything more about it now, but Flavius—look after that park.

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If I do not say anything about the Smoot candidacy for the Senate, it is because there is nothing to say till next week. Reed will have to explain why his announcement was followed by a May frost. It is believed here that when Kearns said he took no stock in Smoot's declaration it was only one of his Irish bulls.

A Startling Production.

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struggle she turns from the old ways and devotes herself to the service of the one who thus regenerates her. She turns also from the one who saved her from the mob and therein lies a dramatic story of passion. It is all very human. It is scarcely different in its vital elements from "A Modern Magdalen" in which Miss Amelia Bingham is now appearing, and I think there will be just a little thrill over the man Christ, when he is shown as one upon whom a woman's spiritual love is bestowed.

Judas Iscariot appears as the deliverer of Mary and afterwards in very human

guise as one who hates "the Master" who deprived him of the love of a woman. Judas is drawn in broad lines that pay no heed to the Biblical tradition of a bribe with thirty pieces of silver. He is a Hebrew patriot, one who is fired with the traditions of his race, who believes in the ancient prophecies of the coming of a Messiah to make the Israelites supreme throughout the earth, and who longs to give his life to the cause. He is not a man of peace and humility. His ambition is not for an Israelite kingdom in which long suffering and love for enemies shall be ruling characteristics. His dream is of a martial Israel which shall march over its enemies and grind them as they have ground his people.

This proud man has been drawn to the standard of "the Master" in the belief that in time this visitor is to throw off his cloak of humility, overthrow the Romans and lead Israel to battle. He fumes under the restraints put upon him and finally turns in bitterness against the one to whom he had given allegiance. His anger finds vent when this "Master" takes from him the woman whose love he craves and he turns and denounces the Christ as a false prophet and helps to feed the malignity of the crowd.

It is all very daring thus to build a drama about the life of Christ. It is in consonance, however, with the march of the liberal theologians. One by one they are tearing up the traditions that have been the bulwark of the Christian church. They have been making plainly human all the persons whom we had invested with spiritual natures so potent that they were awful to contemplate. To present Christ as one who might be the object of a very human jealousy, will certainly be a stride past their furthest advances, but it will be no more than mathematical progression applied to their own ideas.

In "The Eternal City" the Pope will be presented in fashion that will cause discussion. A Pope with a son, even though that son were born before he entered the priesthood, is a conception worthy of Mr. Hall Caine's daring. Just before his novel was published Mr. Caine said to a friend, "My book will be out soon. I am going to Norway for a few months. You know there are no newspapers there." He knew he was bound to provoke a lot of criticism and Liebler & Co., his managers, and Miss Allen are fully aware of the chances of adverse judgment in their stage venture. The strongest scenes of the book will be in the play and in one of them the Pope will be the dominant figure. Liebler & Co., depend upon the great heart interest and the dignity of the character to make it acceptable to Catholics.

If nothing else should develop during the next theatrical season, and there is small chance of anything startling, these two plays will make history on the American stage. Their success will be bound to have a marked effect upon the relations of the drama to matters of religion.

Engineer Young